

REMARKS

The Office action dated December 9, 2005 has been carefully considered. Claims 1-5, 8-12, and 15-18 are active in this application. Further examination and reconsideration of the rejection of claims 1-5, 8-12 and 15-18 are respectfully requested.

The rejection of claims 1-4, 6, 8-11 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Waldbeser (U.S. Pat. 5,263,824) and the rejection of claims 5, 7, 12, and 14-18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Waldbeser with respect to claims 1 and 8 and further in view of Roach. (U.S. Pat. 6,580,367) are respectfully traversed. However, in order to further the prosecution of this application, Applicant has cancelled claims 6, 7, 13 and 14, and amended claims 1, 8 and 15 to further define the invention. These claims are now clearly distinct from the cited art.

The Office action states that claims 7 and 14 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. This has been accomplished by cancelling claims 6, 7, 13 and 14 and including the limitations of claims 7 and 14 and their associated intervening claims within the claims from which they depend (i.e., claim 1 and claim 8 respectively). Further, claim 15, an apparatus claim, has been amended to include the limitation of the “processor being operable to receive a message including instructions for controlling the valve.” This limitation in combination with the other limitations in claim 15 is effectively recognized in the Office action as being patentably distinct from the disclosure of the cited art as indicated by the allowability of claims 7 and 14 as discussed above.

It is submitted that the claims dependent from claims 1, 8 and 15 have now also been clearly patentably distinguished over the cited art as they contain all of the limitations of the claim from which they depend and merely recite additional limitations thereto.

REQUEST FOR ALLOWANCE

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that all pending claims in the application are patentable. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance of this application are earnestly solicited. Should any issues remain unresolved, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned at the number provided below.

Respectfully submitted,

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